

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed April 24, 2007 the Examiner noted that claims 2-9, 11, 12, and 14-18 were pending, and rejected claims 2-9, 11, 12, and 14-18. Claims 14, 7, 8 and 11 have been amended, claims 2-6, 9 and 15-18 have been cancelled, no new claims have been added and, thus, in view of the forgoing claims 7, 8, 11, 12, and 14 remain pending for reconsideration which is requested. No new matter has been added. The Examiner's rejections are traversed below.

REJECTIONS under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 14 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 14 has been amended to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 14 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Otaguro, U.S. Patent No. 6,966,045. Otaguro discusses dividing an area of a chip into a plurality of regions so as to estimate a wire capacity based on connection information of instances disposed in the respective regions.

Page 5 of the Office Action states that Otaguro Fig. 15 teaches "a drawing means for drawing, upon said determination, a plurality of different drawing sheets by dividing said plurality of sub-symbols into individual sub-symbols so that each of said different drawing sheets only includes any one of said sub-symbols, each sub-symbol belongs to the same level as said particular level." Fig. 15 of Otaguro, indicates an explanatory view for showing the area of a chip divided into a plurality of regions including a plurality of cells. Nothing shows a drawing means for drawing, upon said determination, a plurality of different drawing sheets as shown in Figs. 31-33 of the present application. For at least the reasons stated above, amended claim 14 is patentably distinguishable from Otaguro. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 7 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Suzuki, U.S. Patent No. 6,321,370 in view of Merchant U.S. Patent No. 6,490,712. Page 6 of the Office

Action claims that Merchant teaches a method of setting names as shown in figure 1B and a sorting step at Figure 3A, step 330. However, applicant respectfully submits that step 330 as shown in Fig. 3A of Merchant is merely a sorting step sorting instances based on instance names and does not change the name of each instance. In contrast, currently amended claim 7 recites a "drawing name changing means for selecting a plurality of said drawings sheets and changing the name of said plurality of drawing sheets, in ascending or descending order."

For at least the reasons stated above, the combination of Suzuki and Merchant, taken separately or in combination fail to teach or suggest the elements of claims 7 and 8.

Claims 11 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Suzuki in view of Dahl, U.S. Patent No. 6,557,153.

As regards claim 11, the combination of Suzuki and Dahl fail to teach or suggest "arranging a plurality of selected symbols on said drawing sheet to form a column or a row." The Office Action on page 7 asserts that Fig. 9 of Suzuki suggests that "the user is allowed to place the symbols in whatever fashion he or she wishes." However, nothing in Suzuki suggests arranging selected symbols to form a column or a row and to designate intervals between symbols. For at least the reasons stated above, the combination of Suzuki and Dahl taken separately or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the elements of claim 11.

Claim 12 depends directly from claim 11 and includes all the features of claim 11 plus additional features not taught or suggested by the prior art. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 9-14 are patentably distinguishable over the prior art.

Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

SUMMARY

It is submitted that the claims satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112. It is also submitted that claims 7, 8, 11, 12, and 14 continue to be allowable. It is further submitted that the claims are not taught, disclosed or suggested by the prior art. The claims are therefore respectfully submitted to be in a condition suitable for allowance. An early Notice of Allowance is requested.


Serial No. 09/995,818

If any further fees, other than and except for the issue fee, are necessary with respect to this paper, the U.S.P.T.O. is requested to obtain the same from deposit account number 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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